

AGO MISSION

“As an independent constitutional office, and legal counsel to state government, we serve the citizens of Washington with the highest standards of excellence, ethics and effectiveness.”



AGO QUICK FACTS

- The AGO serves more than 230 state agencies, boards, commissions, colleges, and universities, as well as the Governor and Legislature.
- The Attorney General manages the largest public law office in the state with more than 1,200 employees and offices in 12 cities around the state: Bellingham, Port Angeles, Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Wenatchee, Spokane, Yakima, Kennewick, Vancouver and Pullman.



Main Office

www.atg.wa.gov

1125 Washington St. SE
PO Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504-0100
360-753-6200

e-mail form:

www.atg.wa.gov/ContactUs.aspx

Consumer Protection

www.atg.wa.gov/SafeguardingConsumers.aspx

Statewide toll-free number:

1-800-551-4636

Statewide toll-free Relay Service:

1-800-833-6384

Antitrust Division

Office of the Attorney General
Antitrust Division
800 Fifth Ave. Suite 2000
MS TB-14
Seattle, WA 98104-3188
1-206-587-5510

monopoly@atg.wa.gov

Public Counsel (utility regulation)

Office of the Attorney General
Public Counsel Section
800 Fifth Ave. Suite 2000
MS TB-14
Seattle, WA 98104-3188
1-206-464-6907

utility@atg.wa.gov



Provided courtesy of the Washington
State Attorney General's Office

Rob McKenna
Attorney General



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

WELCOME TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL!



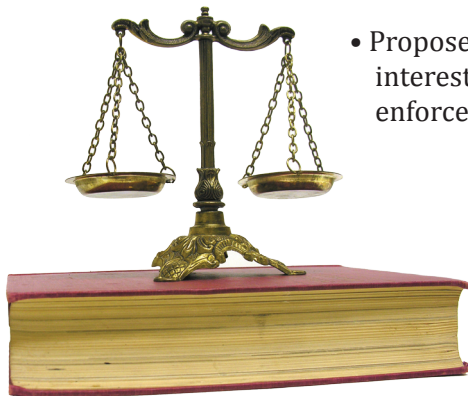
The Attorney General is the top legal officer for state government, elected by the public for a four-year term.

Attorney General Rob McKenna is Washington's 17th state Attorney General. He was sworn into office in January 2005 and is serving his first term.

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) touches the lives of people all across Washington. As chief legal officer, the Attorney General leads a team of attorneys who represent state clients and the public interest as directed under state law.

His top priorities are:

- **Consumer Protection:** Preventing ID theft, Internet predators and scams.
- **Government Accountability:** Promoting open government and defending state law.
- **Community Protection:** Working with law enforcement to protect children, families and communities from meth, sexual predators, domestic violence and other crimes.



WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY DUTIES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE?

The Attorney General's Office:

- Represents the State of Washington before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and trial courts in all the cases involving the state's interest.
- Defends in court state officers or employees ethically acting in their official capacities.
- Investigates and prosecutes persons accused of crimes at the request of the Governor or a county prosecutor.
- Advises the Governor, members of the Legislature, other state officers, and county prosecutors on legal issues.
- Gives formal written attorney general's opinions on constitutional or legal questions at the request of designated public officials.
- Protects the public by upholding the Consumer Protection Act, and enforcing laws against anti-competitive business practices.
- Represents the public interest in utility matters.
- Proposes legislation to further the public interest and provide clear, just and enforceable laws.

If you do not already know an attorney in your area, the Attorney Referral Service at 1-800-945-WSBA (9722) can direct you to one.

WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE?

- The Attorney General's Office is not authorized to represent city, county, or other local units of government.
- By law, the Attorney General's Office is prohibited from launching criminal investigations without a request from a county prosecutor or the Governor.
- State law prohibits the Attorney General, deputy attorneys general, and assistant attorneys general from engaging in the private practice of law. This means that they cannot represent private citizens in court either to bring an action on behalf of an individual, or to defend an individual. Any private citizen needing such representation should consult a private attorney.
- The Attorney General's Office is not authorized to provide advice to private citizens on personal legal matters. While the office may answer questions of a general nature, most private issues require a detailed analysis of the law, and such services are outside the scope of the office's authority.

